

## COUNCIL CONFERENCE MINUTES

November 9, 2010

The City Council of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a conference at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room on the 9th day of November, 2010, and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray, and the Norman Public Library at 225 North Webster 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Atkins, Butler, Cubberley, Dillingham, Ezzell, Griffith, Kovach, Quinn, Mayor Rosenthal

ABSENT: None

### ANNUAL REPORT FROM ANNE MASTERS, DIRECTOR, PIONEER LIBRARY SYSTEM, ON LIBRARY ACTIVITIES.

Ms. Aiden Street, Norman Public Library (NPL) Branch Manager, distributed the latest copy of the Pioneer Library System's (PLS) quarterly publication, Word Magazine, which contains information regarding library programs and ongoing initiatives. She said the Winter 2010, edition focuses on money and highlights smart investing and library programs offered. She said the library hosts a monthly financial education program to the public at all nine PLS locations. She also distributed a brochure entitled, "SPORT Your Library Card," that has pertinent information about NPL resources and Staff and she highlighted information on reading material circulations, room reservations, and visitor statistics. Ms. Street said door counters have been installed and the NPL averages 9,000 visitors per week. Last year, 468,546 customers visited the Norman Public Library and checked out 1,035,120 items from the PLS.

Ms. Street said the PLS contributed \$2,000,000 in Staff salaries, which is money going back into the local economy as Staff works, eats, and shops in the Norman community. She said outreach efforts include small library centers at Sooner Mall, B&B Country Store Book Stop, and Little Axe Community Information Station. She said the library has also partnered with the Norman Public Schools (NPS) and provides all the automation for the schools and library cards to every student. She said the NPL also partners with United Way's Success by Six that provides a mobile library targeted to low income housing areas that may have transportation issues or are not familiar with using the library.

Ms. Street said the Norman Chamber of Commerce has a Green Initiative Program and the NPL was one of the first five businesses in Norman to receive multiple category recognition for going green. She said a Green Committee was appointed and, under their charge, all nine libraries offer recycling for paper, cardboard, aluminum, and plastic as well as savings in electricity using timers for computers to automatically shut down. She said a Business Services Specialist was hired to focus on connecting library resources with small business owners and helping those who are interested in starting a business by connecting them to needed resources. She said the NPL subscribes to Business Decision and Reference U.S.A. databases that provide a host of business information not generally available to the public.

Ms. Lisa Wells, Cleveland County Pioneer Library Coordinator and Associate Director for the Pioneer Library System, said municipal libraries across the nation are in dire straits and closing branches, reducing hours, laying off personnel. She said PLS has increased hours over the past year and added personnel so she feels fortunate to have been successful in passing the increased millage and providing additional resources to the community that PLS serves. She thanked the City of Norman for its support during these difficult economic times. Ms. Wells said Civic Technologies has contracted with PLS to review reasons why, in certain segments of Cleveland County, citizens do not have a library card and they will use this information to ensure PLS remains relevant to its communities. She invited Council to attend the Library Board meeting when Civic Technologies would present their report on November 30, 2010, and thanked Council for their service to the community. Mayor Rosenthal

asked for the figures on the book drop boxes around town and Ms. Street said she did not have that information with her, but would provide those figures to Council. Councilmember Butler asked how the literacy tutoring services are going and Ms. Street said there are approximately 100 students enrolled at any given time and there is always a waiting list. She said the library schedules training sessions for tutors once a month and encouraged anyone interested in tutoring to volunteer.

Items submitted for the record

1. Pioneer Library System Word Magazine, Winter 2010, The Money Issue
2. Norman Public Library "SPORT Your Library Card" brochure

UPDATE ON EFFORTS TO AUGMENT LAKE THUNDERBIRD WATER SUPPLY.

Mr. Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, said the City of Norman, Midwest City, and Del City are partners in using water from Lake Thunderbird and are working together to get more water from the lake and use it more conservatively. He said all rainfall falling into the watershed goes into the lake and droughts can cause concerns about how much water is being taken by the three cities. He said the current allocation level for the three cities is seven billion gallons per year and Norman has always overused its yearly allocation, except for this past year when the Water Treatment Plant used more water from the water wells, which has unknown affects to the aquifer. He said the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District (COMCD) requested a Critical Need Water Supply Project Study in tandem with the Bureau of Reclamation and hired a consultant to review how much water could be obtained if allocations were limited to five billion gallons per year and how to put more water into the lake. Mr. Komiske said the study specifically looked at taking water from the Oklahoma City Atoka Pipeline to put into the lake reservoir and the environmental impact that would have. He said no significant impact was found and the Bureau of Reclamation and City Staff want to review how much water the reservoir can hold.

Mr. Matt Warren, United States Department of the Interior (U.S.D.I.), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), gave background on the Norman Project and said the BOR completed construction of the Norman Lake Thunderbird dam in 1965, the U.S.D.I. owns the damn; pumping plants and pipeline; the 6,080 acre reservoir (Lake Thunderbird); and 7,035 surface acres surrounding the lake, which is operated by the State Park; however, the BOR regulates the water supply. He said the benefits of the project include municipal and industrial water supply, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement. He said another benefit, conservation storage, is the dedicated space the city's are able to use out of the reservoir at 105,927 acre-feet (acre-feet equals one acre of water, one foot deep). He said COMCD operated the dam and reservoir under contract with the U.S.C.E. and provides the project water from the lake to the cities and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department operates the park.

Mr. Warren said the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) issued a surface water permit to the COMCD based on reclamation reservoir firm yield calculation. He said the reservoir yield is the amount of water that can be used each year including the years of the most critical droughts on record without the reservoir being completely emptied. He said they calculate by using an operational model, water in minus water out equals the water stored in the reservoir and is based on historic inflow, evaporation, and over 80 years worth of operational data. He said the model also considers a future time period because silt accumulates in the reservoir so the Bureau looks at 100 year reservoir based on the amount of sediments that will accumulate and decrease the reservoir size.

Mr. Warren said COMCD conducted a yield study to find out how much water can be pulled out of the reservoir every year without having the reservoir be completely dry. He said the Norman Project yield is unique as it is calculated as a conjunctive yield that relies on both reservoir water and supplemental groundwater. He said conjunctive yield increases the water yield amount by approximately 25% so during the wet years the City can pull that extra 25% out of the reservoir and during dry times, supplement with groundwater, which was thought to be an abundant and dependable source of water. He said when the reservoir elevation falls below 1,020 feet,

COMCD must reduce deliveries to the cities and to make that up, the member cities need to have a supplemental groundwater supply or other water source. He said, as the cities have grown, they have become increasingly dependent on groundwater supply as a primary source of water instead of as an alternate supply. He said an alternative to the supplemental groundwater may be needed to offset the reduced deliveries from the reservoir when droughts occur. He said the lowest reservoir elevation, to date, was 1,030 feet during the 2006 drought, which did not trigger reduced deliveries from the reservoir.

Mr. Warren said, to assist the member cities, the COMCD completed a Critical Needs Water Supply Study in 2010, to identify a supplemental water supply to avoid the impact of a severe drought. He said the COMCD is proposing to purchase raw water from Oklahoma City's Atoka Reservoir during times of drought only. He said the objective is to achieve the same conjunctive yield by using supplemental water from the Atoka Reservoir instead of groundwater. He said the COMCD hired Tetra Tech and CH2M Hill to evaluate cost benefits then chose one scenario thought to be the most effective and efficient. He said the study concluded that the reservoir could be used effectively to store and regulate imported water. He said the companion environmental documents were well supported by the public and concluded there were no adverse impacts to the environment, recreation, or local economy. He said it is important to note that when you put additional water into the reservoir, you are not seeing an increase in evaporation or seepage because that reservoir is already evaporating and seeping retained water, which has no impact on additional water.

Mr. Warren said the existing Norman Project authorization does not allow water from other basins or imported water to be placed into the reservoir. He said authority is needed and Senator Inhofe has introduced Senate Bill 3573 (SB3573), the Lake Thunderbird Efficiency Use Act, to amend the original project authorization to allow for storage and conveyance of non-project water. Mayor Rosenthal asked about the status of SB 3573 and Mr. Warren said he believes it has not moved forward since introduction and may have to be reintroduced in 2011.

Mr. Randy Worden, District Manager, Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District, said COMCD has an agreement with the Bureau for a phase approach and as funds become available, they will proceed through those phases. He said the phases are imported water, reuse water, and aquifer storage and recovery. Councilmember Kovach asked when COMCD anticipated those studies being done and Mr. Worden said when funding becomes available. Mayor Rosenthal asked about the costs associated with the different phases and Mr. Worden said cost has not been measured, but he believes it will be in the \$500,000 range. Mr. Komiske said hiring a consultant to thoroughly understand what use the City can utilize the reservoir and to determine if this would be an economically viable option will cost approximately \$50,000. Mayor Rosenthal asked what aquifer storage and recovery would entail and Mr. Worden said finding a section of aquifer, meeting geological conditions to pump excess water into the aquifer to be recovered at a later date.

Councilmember Dillingham asked if Norman had the geological conditions to do aquifer augmentation and Mr. Worden said he was not sure. Mr. Warren said the OWRB is working on a Garber-Wellington Aquifer Study as part of the City Conference of Water Plans and that study may shed some light on the status of the aquifer and aquifer yield. Councilmember Kovach said he thought aquifer recharge was the first step communities go through, as far as reuse, and asked if there were any indications as to the percentage of water that could be put into the aquifer and Mr. Komiske said, not at this point. Councilmember Griffith asked about the associated costs to pump water from the Atoka Pipeline and asked if the Cities would have to buy that water and Mr. Worden said yes, at a cost of approximately \$4 to \$5 million for 24 months. Mayor Rosenthal said the City needs to work on getting the amendment through the legislation process and continue discussions regarding next steps.

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Items submitted for the record

1. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Lake Thunderbird Augmentation"
2. PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Reclamation - Managing Water in the West, Lake Thunderbird Water Supply, Norman Project, Oklahoma," by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, November 2010

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor